



# THE 2001 HUNGARIAN POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS IN SOCIAL STATISTICS

József Sánta\*

1. INTRODUCTION      The Census Day was 01.02.2001, and the Census was carried out in traditional way by enumerators, supervisors and coders. The HCSO was responsible for the professional coordination and the local governments were charged in hiring the enumerators and to certain extent the supervisors. The coding was taking place under the control of the county CSO offices, and then the questionnaires were transported to the processing centre.

Census statisticians are said to be conservative as they do not want to jeopardize the success of the census by introducing new or changed elements. However between two censuses there are new political and public expectations, changes in international recommendations and data requests as well as technological developments to mention but these examples which can all influence the conduct of the census and compel changes. In Hungary the main changes were as follows in comparison with the 1990 census:

- transition from '0' to '1' in the census year;
- HCSO had to cooperate directly with more than 3000 local governments instead of the former county governments (20);
- tendering procedures to select winners;
- introducing Optical Character Recognition technology, which operated in one centre instead of decentralized data entry centres when the OCR was restricted for recognizing digits only, following manual coding of handwritten text (e.g. birth place, occupation) for those boxes which were not filled in with digits directly by the enumerator or respondent ;
- employment data proved to be unexpectedly sensitive (it was already the 3-week enumeration period when there was a refusal campaign);
- in the same time people were responsive to questions on religions which appeared on the questionnaires again after the 1949 census (one would think it sensitive data);

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\* Hungarian Central Statistical Office.